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Your Reference: HL76202/ASG/par
Application No: GB 0013661.4

23 October 2000

COMPUTER
25 OCT 2000
NOTED

Dear Sirs

Patents Act 1977: Search Report under Section 17(5)

I enclose two copies of my search report and a copy of the citations.

Plurality of invention

I consider that your application relates to more than one invention. However I have not listed the multitude of inventions disclosed in this application for the following reasons:-
1) *prima facie* the application does not comply with Section 14(5)(b) & (d), and
2) detailed lists have been set out in similar copending applications.

Publication

I estimate that, provided you have met all formal requirements, preparations for publication of your application will be completed soon after 21 November 2000. You will then receive a letter informing you of completion and telling you the publication number and date of publication.

Amendment/withdrawal

If you wish to file amended claims for inclusion with the published application, or to withdraw the application to prevent publication, you must do so before the preparations for publication are completed. No reminder will be issued. If you write to the Office less than 3 weeks before the above completion date, please mark your letter prominently:
"URGENT - PUBLICATION IMMINENT".

[†]Use of E-mail: Please note that e-mail should be used for correspondence only.



Application No: GB 0013661.4

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Yours faithfully

David Pepper
Examiner



Application No: GB 0013661.4
Claims searched: 1

Examiner: David Pepper
Date of search: 20 October 2000

Patents Act 1977

Search Report under Section 17

Databases searched:

UK Patent Office collections, including GB, EP, WO & US patent specifications, in:

UK Cl (Ed.R): E1F FJT, FLA

Int Cl (Ed.7): E21B

Other: Online: WPI, EPODOC, JAPIO

Documents considered to be relevant:

Category	Identity of document and relevant passage	Relevant to claims
X,E	GB 2348657 A (Shell Int Research)	1
X,E	GB 2348223 A (Shell Int Research)	1
X,E	GB 2347952 A (Shell Int Research)	1
X,E	GB 2347950 A (Shell Int Research)	1
X,E	GB 2344606 A (Shell Int Research)	1
X	EP 0881354 A (Sofitech N.V.)	1
X	WO 99/35368 A (Shell Int Research) - see figure 4	1
X	WO 98/00626 A (Shell Int Research)	1

X	Document indicating lack of novelty or inventive step	A	Document indicating technological background and/or state of the art.
Y	Document indicating lack of inventive step if combined with one or more other documents of same category.	P	Document published on or after the declared priority date but before the filing date of this invention.
&	Member of the same patent family	E	Patent document published on or after, but with priority date earlier than, the filing date of this application.